

Both 'Mad Cow' and AIDS Were Covered Up

by Paul Gallagher

Since *EIR*'s documentation, last week, of the past 15 years' poisoning of the animal-feed chain by British multinationals and Margaret Thatcher's governments, an official *panic* over "Mad Cow" disease (bovine spongiform encephalopathy, BSE) has been declared by the European Union (EU); and the 1980s British cover-up of the disease has been exposed in the German newspaper *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. The period of the 1980s, in which British scientists were threatened against revealing that Britain was incubating and exporting Mad Cow disease, overlaps exactly that period in which the "takeoff" of the AIDS global pandemic was covered up in the same way. During those years, the political movement of Lyndon LaRouche urged *panic* over AIDS—strict and robust public health measures against AIDS as a fully reportable disease. This is the kind of panic which is now breaking out, 15 years too late, over BSE. Scientists collaborating on the AIDS problem then, with *EIR* and LaRouche, were targeted and intimidated in the same way as those, we now learn, who were on to the spread of BSE.

In Germany, where the current panic is most extreme, and beginning to suggest the banning of human consumption of meat, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine* full-page exposé on Dec. 1 stood out. One of its sections, published separately online under the headline, "BSE Specialist Appeals to German Public," deals with British microbiologist Stephen Dealler.

"Mr. Dealler, one of the first scientists to warn about the dangers of BSE, says that the British government systematically suppressed and manipulated scientific research for almost 15 years to keep the truth about BSE from the public. According to Mr. Dealler, the British government awarded no research contracts for developmental work in diagnosing BSE or treating the disease. Researchers had only been allowed to analyze tissue samples from animals with government approval. . . .

"Mr. Dealler is a key figure in the history of BSE. In 1987, he wrote about the grave health risks of beef contaminated with BSE. Immediately after publication, Mr. Dealler was deprived of all research funding."

This is precisely the time at which the Thatcher government allowed British animal-feed conglomerates to begin exporting, on a large scale, animal feed which they knew to include rendering of parts of animals from herds infected with BSE and its counterpart in sheep, scrapie. They knew that the temperatures at which they were being allowed to render the

animal parts, were at or below scientific minimum temperatures for disinfection. They also knew then, as *EIR* documented as long ago as 1996, that this practice (which was against all competent scientific advice) had already been spreading BSE among British cattle herds. Thatcher's "deregulation" policies had allowed the British food multitis to cheat on public health for profits in this way; and scientists such as Mr. Dealler were not to be permitted to stand in the way.

"The young scientist began his own research," reported the German daily. "He had a powerful ally in his teacher, Richard Lacey, a leading microbiologist. Mr. Lacey said later, 'Parliament certified me as mad. Prime Minister Thatcher [trained as a chemist—ed.] knew everything, but wanted a delay. . . .' Mr. Dealler is appealing to people in Germany. 'I can only ask you not to make the same mistake as Great Britain did. You have some great scientists here, whose findings you should heed, even if they have unpleasant consequences.' His aim is to make us realise: 'The risk of BSE is greater than you think.'"

A Cost of Many Human Lives

At least 82 Britons have now died of the human form of BSE, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, and the total number sickened with this "crossover" disease is now put at more than 100. The causal agent is still not positively identified; the incubation period in humans is believed to be very long, and these cases may be the edge of an avalanche of infections in Britain back in the 1980s, when people began eating beef from infected herds in significant quantities. Cases of the human form have now appeared in France, and BSE-infected cattle in France, Spain, and Germany.

On Dec. 5, an EU emergency summit banned the use of meat and bone meal in livestock food. Agence France Presse reported that "they also voted to test for BSE after slaughter, beginning July 1, all cattle over the age of 30 months. Between Jan. 1 and then, all untested animals will be removed from the food chain and destroyed." The German government voted against, thinking that even these drastic measures were not enough; within Germany, quarantining of entire beef-ranching sections is being proposed by state governments, and Green Party government ministers are talking about banning the sale of meat.

It is impossible to overlook the tragic irony in this spreading official panic. The same parties now in governments proposing such extreme "public health measures," were insistent 15 years ago on protecting the "civil rights of the AIDS virus." They were part of the global expert consensus that AIDS should *not* be made a reportable disease, that all testing for it should be voluntary, that it could not be casually spread and would not become a pandemic.

Had governments and public health authorities declared a panic *then*, in the 1980s, when competent scientists sounded warnings about both AIDS and BSE, the lives of many thousands of AIDS victims could have been saved.